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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 690  
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the members of the Knoxville Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich historical legacy, and it is of great importance that the heritage be protected and nourished so that future generations might learn and benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Knoxville Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities are estimable individuals who have contributed greatly to our state by maintaining Ramsey House Plantation; on June 26, 2002, they will celebrate the Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at their annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Knoxville Chapter have been extremely beneficial to the people of this state; since organizing in 1952, the Chapter has offered educational programs for schools and other groups, personally guided interpretive tours for visitors, and Sunday afternoon programs for families to explore their heritage together through hands-on experiences; and

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WHEREAS, the Ramsey House Plantation is a true Tennessee treasure; its site encompasses the historic house and more than one hundred acres of the original plantation of pioneer Francis Alexander Ramsey, who came to our nation's first frontier in one of the earliest waves of Westward Movement; and

WHEREAS, the Ramsey House Plantation preserves the story of a family that played a preeminent role in the frontier and the development of civic, educational, and cultural institutions; among their family's many contributions was the service of Francis Ramsey in the formation of the State of Franklin, the establishment of government, courts, banks, and education in the Southwest Territory and the first quarter of a century of Tennessee's statehood; and

WHEREAS, this Tennessee pioneer served on Franklin's Council of State at twenty, was a founding Trustee of Blount College, served as a clerk of the first State Senate, and was President of the State Bank of Tennessee in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, his sons continued the family tradition of public service: Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey was a physician and historian who helped bring the first railroad to East Tennessee; William B. A. Ramsey served as the first elected Mayor of Knoxville and Secretary of State and brought steamboat service to Knoxville; and Dr. F. A. Ramsey established the first medical society and the first civilian hospital in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Ramsey House itself is also quite historically significant because of its outstanding architecture; built between 1795 and 1797, it is recognized by architectural historians as one of the finest homes of its period still standing in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is the only home designed and constructed by Thomas Hope, Knoxville's first architect, that still stands essentially unchanged; historians rank Hope's work on Ramsey House on a par with that of the builders of Williamsburg, Annapolis, and Charleston; and

WHEREAS, the historical gem that is the Ramsey House Plantation has been treasured by Tennesseans for more than two centuries; because of the estimable efforts of the Knoxville

Chapter of the Association of the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, generations to come will be able to visit the Plantation, marvel at its elegance, and learn of its story; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize the good people of the Knoxville Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, express our appreciation for their good works, and join in celebrating the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 26, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.